

REMARKS

Claim Status

The application as filed included claims 1-92. In an office action dated September 22, 2005, claims 1-92 were rejected. In response, Applicants filed an amendment and response on February 22, 2006, in which Applicants amended claim 82 and added claims 93 and 94 to more distinctly point out the subject matter of the invention. Applicants also cancelled claims 74-81, 91 and 92 without prejudice, and reserved the right to pursue these claims in related applications.

Subsequently, a restriction requirement was issued on May 18, 2006, in which the Examiner requested that the Applicants elect between group I consisting of claims 1-73 and group II consisting of claims 82-90 and 93-94. In a response dated June 8, 2006, Applicants elected group I. A final office action issued on August 30, 2006, rejecting claims 1-73, and in response Applicants filed a request for continued examination and amended independent claims 1 and 27.

A office action issued on March 23, 2007, in which the §103(a) rejections were withdrawn, however the claims remained rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 remain. In response, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 27.

Applicants note that due to administrative error, there is no claim 62 in the application.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-72 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. In response to these rejections, claims 1 and 27 have been amended in such a manner as to state a useful, concrete, tangible result (i.e., a method by which insurance claims can be automatically processed based on a context-free grammar) that facilitates, among other things, a process for determining the applicability of a provision governing claim adjudication to a claim and facilitating the automated processing the claim, thereby streamlining the otherwise labor-intensive claim adjudication process. Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections.


CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration, withdrawal of all grounds of rejection, and allowance of claims 1-61 and 63-73 in due course. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone at the number listed below to discuss any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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